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6. Chocolate-brown to nearly black, smooth, with white dots dorsally and anteriorly, with lateral white V-like marks; head shining black on each side; dorso-caudal spine shining black.

7. The same as No. 6, with lateral red V-like marks.

Among these more marked varieties others were noticed which were more or less of an intermediate character. The most common variety was that which was least distinguishable in color from the animal's location, the tobacco-leaf, so that it was especially favored in its preservation.

Prof. Leidy further remarked that the past season had appeared to be favorable to many of the Lepidoptera. Our shade-trees had been greatly ravaged by the *Orgyia*; many of the poplars had suffered from the *Clostera inclusa*, and he had observed an unusual quantity of the Ailanthus silk-worm, *Attacus cynthia*, upon the Ailanthus-trees. The latter was introduced here in 1861, by Dr. Thomas Stewardson.

Dr. Wm. M. Gray was elected a member.

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OCTOBER 3, 1882.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-seven members present.

*Apparent Bird Tracks by the Sea-shore.*—MR. THOMAS MEEHAN called attention to what appeared to be the track of a three-toed bird in the sand, near low-water mark, at Atlantic City. They were generally regarded by observers as bird tracks. While looking at them, recently, he noted that there were no birds about to make such recent tracks, and also that the tracks would have to be made in every case by a bird facing the water, which, in the nature of things, would be improbable. While reflecting on this, he noted on the face of the smooth receding waves, spots where the water sparkled in the light, and he found this was caused by little ripples as the wavelet passed down over the half exposed bodies of a small crustacean, *Hippa talpoidea*, and that the water in passing over the bodies, made the trifid marks which had been taken for impressions of bird's feet. This little creature took shelter in the sand near low-water mark, and entered head foremost in a perpendicular direction downwards, resting just beneath the surface. The returning wave took some of the surface sand with it, and thus the lower portions of the bodies, uppermost in the sand, were exposed. Often the creatures would be entirely washed out, when, recovering themselves, they rapidly advanced in a direction contrary to the retreat of the wave, and entered the wet sand again as before, their sides being parallel with the shore. The body terminated in a caruncular point which, with the posi-

tion of the two hind-legs, made a tridentate obstruction to the sand brought down by the retreating wave, and the water passing around the points made the three toe-like grooves which resembled a bird's foot from one and a half to two inches long. The creatures in their scrambles for protection beneath the sand, managed to keep at fair distances from each other, and hence there was considerable regularity in the tracks as if they had really been produced by birds.

He added that he presented the observation as a mere trifle, but he could not help remarking that if by any means these trifid impressions should get filled with mud, and the deposit become solid rock, it would be very natural for observers, ignorant of their origin, to mistake marks like these for the tracks of birds.

*Scent Organ of Papilio.*—Mr. H. SKINNER remarked that the larvæ of *Papilio turnus* and *P. troilus* when irritated, project from a slit in the prothoracic segment, an orange-colored bifid organ. The apparatus is a scent organ, and gives out a strong and disagreeable odor perceptible at some distance, and seems to be designed to defend the caterpillar from numerous enemies.

The anatomy of the organ seems to have escaped investigation, as most authors merely mention its existence, one describing it simply as fleshy. It has the appearance of being a solid organ, but it is in reality hollow throughout the entire extent, and of very thin texture, tapering gradually to a point. It is drawn in by invagination, and is protruded after the same method. If the larvæ be held so that the sunlight may pass through the extended organ, the process of intussusception may be distinctly seen.

*Asymmetry of the Turbinated Bones.*—Dr. HARRISON ALLEN, in the course of remarks on the asymmetry of paired structures in mammals, invited the attention of the members to asymmetry in the inferior turbinated bones of the human subject. This asymmetry may exist independently of the deflection of the nasal septum, and may involve the entire length of the bones. The nasal chamber may also be asymmetrical, and even the choana of one side be much smaller than the space of the opposite side. It was thought that such asymmetry involving the pterygoid processes of the sphenoid bones, was due to early and probably pre-natal influences, as opposed to the asymmetry due to acquired deflection of the septum.

Some peculiarities of the floor of the nose which have not been described, were defined. Among these was mentioned the elevation of the premaxilla as it lies on the floor of the nose above the level of the horizontal plate of the superior maxilla. This elevation tended to conceal the inferior turbinated bone from inspection from the anterior nares. Some forms of obstruction to nasal respiration in man were thought by the speaker to be due to the conformation of the parts as described. A peculiar thickening of